

December 4, 2011 – Homily Notes

“Lord, sanctify us in Your Truth; Your Word is Truth. Amen.”

This is the Sunday of St. John the Baptist, the Forerunner, sent by God to prepare His people to receive Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah.

St. Mark gives us a summary of what he did
and the impact it had on the people.

St. Matthew and St. Luke also give us a vivid record
of what he actually told the people.

His job was to clear out of the way everything in the normal everyday life of the people that would have prevented them from following Jesus.
And, we learn, he took very good aim at it.

It didn't matter to John how prevalent certain practices were in the society of his day:

If they stood in the way, his job was to move people to get rid of them through “a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.”

The fact that these practices were so prevalent did not lead him to throw up his arms and say:

“It's hopeless!” or

“It doesn't really matter,” or

“How harmful can it really be if everyone's doing it?”

No.

He looked the people straight in the eye and said:

“If you don’t turn things around in your life,
the whole lot of you,
this is the end of the road for you.
You can’t swallow the Lie and still stay on track with God.
Clean it up right now
or pay the price for turning your back on God.”

And, do you know what?

Everyone knew he was right!

Even the people who didn’t clean up their act knew deep down that
he was right.

Even King Herod, who had him arrested and thrown into the dungeon.
Even Queen Herodias, who tricked the king into having John beheaded.
Everyone knew that John was right,
that the axe WAS laid to the root, (*Matthew 3:10*)
that it WAS now or never,
that there might not be a second chance.

That was the job God gave John the Baptist,
and he did it very well.
They came to him in droves,
but his message didn’t change one iota for that reason:
He called a spade a spade to the very end.

Now, Mary, our Blessed Mother, has told us point-blank that she is OUR
John the Baptist, yours, mine, and the world’s,

underscored by the fact that her apparitions in Medjugorje began on the Feast of St. John the Baptist, June 24-25, 1981.

Whatever may be the differences in style & looks between John and her, her job is also to get the whole world ready for what's coming next, what is at our very doorstep.

No one but God Himself knows us better than she does.

She not only looks around on the world and its prevalent practices; she gazes deep into our hearts as well.

For 30 years she's been telling us that the world which God loves so much is destroying itself by ignoring Him.

Our secular society thinks that with God out of the way "Man" is now in charge, she's been telling us.

But, in fact, it is satan who takes over when we ignore God.

We are creating a hell on earth, not a paradise, she says.

And God will simply not allow that to continue for long.

Satan knows his time is short.

As the very essence of evil, he works to bring down with him anything and anyone who is precious to God. (*Revelation 12:12b*)

First, he attacks the Church – from within and from without, which is why Mary is constantly begging us to pray for our shepherds.

And then he attacks the family – created in the image of God.

Destroy the family, and people become easy prey for him, especially the children, adolescents, and young adults.

They totally lose their bearings and their sense of worth.

The attack on the family takes many interrelated forms:

We will examine some of them in the weeks ahead.

But the most vicious, pervasive, insidious attack of all is pornography.

It totally and quickly destroys our ability to be the Image of God and to treat others, especially our spouses, as the Image of God.

Archbishop Fulton Sheen was right when he pointed out years ago that living life at that level exacts a heavy price:

Loss of the ability to relate to God at all.

Now, I'm **not** going to say much more about porn here.

We'll let the article inserted into today's bulletin from the most recent edition of Columbia, the magazine of the Knights of Columbus, carry the freight on that – AND IT DOES!

All I will say here about porn is this:

It is mortal sin and must be confessed, every time.

It kills its users and their families, or leaves them severely wounded.

It is devastating even young children **as we speak**.

It is a one-way ticket to hell.

It has no redeeming features.

It totally blocks the connection to God (why large numbers of people have simply quit coming to Church altogether).

It is wrong, wrong, wrong.

It must be faced head-on and eliminated, not “controlled”.

This Advent, right now, is the perfect time to do this.

Like an alcoholic, a porn addict will always be a porn addict.
But knowing this is the first step in not allowing it to kill you and
destroy your family.

Knowing this is absolutely essential to reconnecting with God.

Knowing and admitting this is the birth of hope in despair,
the little candle that can point the way out of the darkness.

Let's give our Blessed Mother, our "John the Baptist" the last word on
this today:

**Dear Children. Today in a special way I invite you to prayer
and renunciation. For now as never before satan wants to show
the world his shameful face by which he wants to seduce as
many people as possible onto the way of death and sin.
Therefore, dear Children, help my Immaculate Heart to
triumph in the sinful world. I beseech all of you to offer
prayers and sacrifices for my intentions so I can present them
to God for what is most necessary. Forget your desires, dear
Children, and pray for what God desires and not for what you
desire. Thank you for having responded to my call.**

September 25, 1991

That's our Mum!